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RETIRED AND SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

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TO: V.J. St. Pierre, Parish President

FROM: Fay L. Caire, Director of RSVP

SUBJECT: 2010 Annual Report

The National Senior Service Corps engages a half million Americans age 55 and older in results-driven service as Foster Grandparents, Senior Companions, and volunteers in the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP). The Senior Corp taps the vast wealth of experience, skills, and talents of older citizens to meet community challenges.

RSVP is one of the largest volunteer efforts in the nation – matching projects that need to be completed with people age 55 and older who are willing to help and give back their time and talents to their community. As we reflect back over 2010, it is evident the impact that the River Parishes RSVP program has had on our local communities.

During 2010, we had 827 volunteers who served 114,516 service hours to 63 volunteer stations on a regular monthly basis. The estimated value of service given back to their communities is \$2,318,949. Volunteers serve without compensation, but receive benefits of a stipend for travel reimbursement, allowance for meals, accident and liability insurance while on assignment.

RSVP volunteers represent a diverse range of incomes, ages, genders, physical abilities, and ethnic and racial backgrounds. But they share a common desire to make a difference. Everyone has unique gifts to share, and RSVP volunteers make significant contributions by putting their talents to work as leaders, organizers, builders, caregivers and mentors. The number of RSVP volunteers and their level of commitment make them an essential resource in meeting critical community needs.

In an attempt to try to thank the volunteers for the work they do, we plan various activities. Last year during National Volunteer Week in April, RSVP volunteers were treated to a crawfish boil to let them know how much they are appreciated. We also host an annual recognition highlighting all participants in the RSVP program, years of service, and we also recognized volunteers for the most hours worked during 2010.

The community has recognized what an asset our senior citizens are and the important role that they contribute to the parish. Many of our volunteers have been highlighted in various news articles to recognize them for their contributions.

The strengths of the RSVP program are many. RSVP is very fortunate to receive support from local government and various non-profit organizations within our community. Funding for the RSVP Program is provided by a Federal grant, State of Louisiana through the Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs, United Way of St. Charles, St. John the Baptist Parish Council, and most importantly from the St. Charles Parish Council.

Our program can say that 2010 was a very successful, rewarding and challenging year for RSVP. In 2011, the RSVP program will be celebrating its' fortieth year birthday, and our volunteers stand proudly ready, willing and able to help wherever and whenever needed.

Thank you Mr. St. Pierre, and the St. Charles Parish Council for always supporting the RSVP program and the many wonderful senior citizens of our great parish.

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